

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 L-03
/035 W

-----101157Z 100791 /20

R 100654Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2557

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: QUIET PREVAILS IN JSA

REF: (A) SEOUL 484 (190722Z JAN 77), (B) SEOUL 322 (130855Z JAN77)

1. FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1977 MARKED BY CONTINUED LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN ARMISTICE OPERATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN NO MEETING OF THE ARMISTICE COMMISSION ITSELF SINCE OCTOBER, THE SECRETARIES LAST MET IN NOVEMBER, AND THE MOST RECENT MEETING OF SECURITY OFFICERS WAS ON DECEMBER 16. JOINT DUTY OFFICERS (JDO) AND LANGUAGE OFFICERS HAVE CONTINUED TO MEET ON REGULARLY-SCHEDULED BASIS, AND UNC HAS CONTINUED TO TRANSMIT NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS BY NORTH, WHICH HAVE CONTINUED AT MORE OR LESS USUAL LEVELS, EITHER THROUGH JOINT DUTY OFFICERS OR BY MESSAGES BETWEEN SENIOR MEMBERS. THE ONLY ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS RECEIVED FROM NORTH WERE ON JANUARY 14 (REF A) AND MARCH 6 (SEE BELOW).

2. NORTH KOREAN GUARDS HAVE ALSO MAINTAINED THEIR RELATIVELY CORRECT BEHAVIOR NOTED REF B. THREATS AND GESTURES CONTINUE BUT VERY INFREQUENTLY, AS COMPARED TO 1976.

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3. GENERALLY LOW LEVEL OF MAC ACTIVITY BY NORTH IS UNUSUAL BUT NOT UNPRECEDENTED. THESE LAPASES HAVE OCCURRED BEFORE, FOLLOWING MAJOR INCIDENTS, SUCH AS EC-121 INCIDENT IN APRIL 1969 AND DISCOVERY OF SECOND NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL IN MARCH 1975.

4. LATEST CHARGE OF ARMISTICE VIOLATION MADE BY NORTH FOLLOWED INTERESTING TRACK. ON FRIDAY 4 MARCH KPA JDO REQUESTED AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH UNC JDO. AT THAT MEETING THE KPA COMPLAINED OF AN ALLEGED ROK PROPAGANDA SIGN DISPLAYED IN THE DMZ. THE UNC RESPONDED WITH A SECRETARY TO SECRETARY MESSAGE REQUESTING THAT ANY ALLEGATION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE UNC BE CONFINED TO OFFICIAL CHANNELS AND DEAL WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. AT 0008, 6 MARCH THE KPA THROUGH A SENIOR MEMBER TO SENIOR MEMBER MESSAGE LODGED A FORMAL CHARGE ALLEGING THAT A PROVOCATIVE ACT WAS COMMITTED BY THE "SOUTH KOREAN PUPPET ARMY" BY SETTING UP A SLOGAN BOARD WHICH "SLANDERED AND DENOUNCED" THE KPA SIDE. CHARGE CITED PARAS 6 AND 14 OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND THE PREAMBLE.

5. PROPAGANDA IS NOT A MAC SUBJECT AND IS, IN ITSELF, NOT AN ARMISTICE VIOLATION. PARAS CITED REFER TO "HOSTILE ACTS" AND RESPECT FOR DMZ BY FORCES OF BOTH SIDES. NEVERTHELESS, THE UNC INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT AND DETERMINED THAT NO SUCH PROPAGANDA SIGN EXISTED. IN A MESSAGE DISPATCHED TO THE KPA ON 7 MARCH, THE UNC STATED "THE SUBJECT OF PROPAGANDA ALONG THE DMZ WAS DISCUSSED BY THE SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED." ADDED THAT ALLEGATIONS SUCH AS THOSE MADE BY NK SIDE AND WHICH PERTAIN TO THAT AGREEMENT ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION. THE MESSAGE CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT "NO PROVOCATIVE ACTS WERE COMMITTED AS YOU ALLEGED."

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL01940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770373/aaaacmcn.tel
Line Count: 97
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Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 484, 77 SEOUL 322
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3149251
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUIET PREVAILS IN JSA
TAGS: MARR, KS, KN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/20f73dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009